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thence they proceed to Mafrak, N.E. of Şalkhad, on level ground, but waterless. Sometimes, from fear of floods, they do not halt at Ezra'ât. From Mafrak they go to Zarká (Wádi Zarka of Burckhardt, p. 249), where there is running water, with a ruined castle called Kal'ātu-l-azrak [blue castle], with several streams, and date-trees. It is one day's journey to the N.E."—F. S.

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XX.—*Volcano of Saddle Island*.—Being an extract from the Log of H.C. steam-vessel 'Victoria,' Lieut. W. C. BARKER, Commander. Communicated by the Court of Directors of the Hon. East India Company.

FRIDAY, August 14, 1846.—A.M.: Fresh breeze and thick cloudy weather. Daylight: Thick cloudy weather. Passing the Zebayer Island at 10h 30m, observed a very threatening appearance to the westward; made all snug; secured guns on board, boats, &c.; very vivid lightning, followed by distinct though distant thunder. Observed smoke issuing from the summit of Saddle Island, the westernmost central island of the Zebayer group, in a dense sulphurous-looking cloud, till the thickness of the weather shut it from view, 10h 30m. A very heavy squall from the west-north-west, accompanied with thunder and lightning, with very heavy rain. Noon: Strong gusts and rising sea; shipping heavy seas; passed the steamer 'Hindustan,' bearings Northern Zebayer Island (Haycock) N.N.E. about four miles. P.M.: The wind suddenly died away; weather clearing up; and again freshened up. Strong breeze, with dark cloudy weather; incessant rain. 3h 5m: The Quoin Rock bore E.S.E.; squally unsettled weather. Sunset: Thick cloudy weather, with heavy rain. 7h 15m: Jibbel Tír High Peak E.½S. 8h: Fresh breeze and cloudy, with heavy rain. Much lightning to the northward. Midnight: ditto weather.

The Zebayer Islands, of which Saddle Island is one, are in 15° 7' N. and 42° 12' E. They are all of volcanic origin; but there is neither record nor tradition of their having been in active operation. Jibbel Tír, in 15° 32' N., 41° 55' E., was observed to be smoking when visited by the officers of the 'Benares,' during the survey of the Red Sea, but never since. There is a tradition among the Arab pilots of its having been on fire since fifty years ago. It bears the name of Jibbel Dúkhan (Hill of Smoke) among many of them. It certainly has the appearance of having been in active operation at a much later period than the Zebayer Islands.

Everything regarding these islands is of great importance to the navigation of the Red Sea, as they are right in the track of vessels proceeding up and down.

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